

substantive defenses raised in the panel review.

Dated: August 21, 1998.

Caratina L. Alston,

Deputy United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat.

[FR Doc. 98-23276 Filed 8-28-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-GT-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 082198B]

Endangered Species; Permits

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Receipt of an application for a scientific research permits (1176) and for a modifications to a scientific research permit (944).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following actions regarding permits for takes of endangered and threatened species for the purposes of scientific research and/or enhancement: NMFS has received a permit application from Mr. W. Coleman Long, Chief of US Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington (COE)(1176); and NMFS has received an application for a modification to an existing permit from Dr. Boyd Kynard, Section Leader, Fish Behavior of U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)(944).

DATES: Written comments or requests for a public hearing on any of the applications must be received on or before September 30, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The applications and related documents are available for review in the following offices, by appointment:

For permit 1176: Director, Southeast Region, NMFS, NOAA, 9721 Executive Center Drive, St. Petersburg, FL 33702-2432 (813-893-3141).

For permit 944: Director, Northeast Region, NMFS, NOAA, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA, 01930-2298 (978-281-9250).

All documents may also be reviewed by appointment in the Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Terri Jordan, Endangered Species Division, Silver Spring, MD (301-713-1401).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

Permits are requested under the authority of section 10 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and the NMFS regulations governing ESA-listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-227).

Those individuals requesting a hearing on these requests for permits should set out the specific reasons why a hearing would be appropriate (see **ADDRESSES**). The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. All statements and opinions contained in the below application summaries are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

New Application Received

COE (1176) has requested a 1-year permit to use hatchery bred shortnose sturgeon, (*Acipenser brevirostrum*), to test the potential impacts of deepening Wilmington harbor in North Carolina. The applicant proposes to place hatchery raised sturgeon in wire cages below the surface and subject them to a series of tests blasts to determine the effect that the harbor deepening will have on wild sturgeon in the harbor. During the test blasting, additional protective measures will be taken to prevent wild sturgeon from being affected - these measures include: relocation of any wild sturgeon found to be in the area prior to the blasts and air bubble curtains. Due to contract awards schedule, the test blast schedule would likely begin in December of 1998 and may continue through January, 1999.

Modification Request Received

USGS requests a modification to permit #944, which would grant permission to relocate endangered shortnose sturgeon located below Holyoke Dam, Massachusetts, above the dam and to modify the technique currently being used for tagging shortnose sturgeon to an IE tag placed internally with the antennae extending through the body wall.

Dated: August 24, 1998.

Kevin Collins,

Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 98-23358 Filed 8-28-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 082198A]

Endangered Species; Permits

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Receipt of an application for a scientific research/enhancement permit (1177).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District at Portland, OR (Corps) has applied in due form for a permit that would authorize takes of a threatened anadromous fish species for the purpose of scientific research/enhancement.

DATES: Written comments or requests for a public hearing on the application must be received on or before September 30, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review in the following offices, by appointment:

Protected Resources Division (PRD), F/NWO3, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-4169 (503-230-5400); and

Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401).

Written comments or requests for a public hearing should be submitted to the Chief, PRD in Portland, OR.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tom Lichatowich (503-230-5438).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Corps requests a permit under the authority of section 10 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and the NMFS regulations governing ESA-listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-227).

The Corps requests a two-year permit (1177) that would authorize an annual take of adult, threatened, Southern Oregon/Northern California coast coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) associated with an adult fish transportation program at Elk Creek Dam on the Rogue River in Oregon. The purpose of the transportation program is to move returning ESA-listed adult fish above Elk Creek Dam, an impassable barrier for adult salmonids, so that the fish may use the habitat upstream of the dam for natural spawning. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has determined that coho salmon transported above the dam in